

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Upham #1 Inventory Number: CH-667

Address: Upham Road, off of Sweden Point Road City: Rison Zip Code: 20658

County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: Indian Head Quad

Owner: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, State Forest and Park Service

Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ no ☐ yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed? ☐ no ☐ yes Determined eligible? ☐ no ☐ yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Upham #1 house is an early Twentieth century bungalow that is located in Smallwood State Park, in Charles County, Maryland.

While this property is an example of the Bungalow architectural style, popular in the beginning of the Twentieth century, I do not feel that it is eligible for the National Register or the Maryland Register. The Upham #1 house does not exhibit any particular or noteworthy design details that make it an exceptional example of the style.

The property does represent an example of the trend in Charles County whereby larger landowners were forced to divide up their tobacco plantations due to the economic depression in the 1860's, however the house that now stands was built many years after this fact so its significance is diminished.

The presence of General William Smallwood's Retreat, a tobacco plantation, overshadows the significance of this bungalow. Smallwood was an early Governor of Maryland and instrumental during the Revolutionary War for his leadership as colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Regiment. This Plantation house is located about a mile from the Upham #1 property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>05/22/01</u> Date
<u>Bickert</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>5/23/01</u> Date

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

CH-667

Continuation Sheet No. 1

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Prepared by: Charlie Mazurek

Date Prepared: 4/23/01

Inventory Number: CH-667  
Upham #1 House  
Smallwood State Park  
C. Mazurek  
April 19, 2001

### **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

The Upham #1 property is located on Upham Road off of Sweden Point Road, within the vicinity of Rison, Charles County, Maryland. The property is now owned by the Department of Natural Resources and is part of Smallwood State Park. It contains a one-story frame bungalow, a small frame shed, and the burned out remains of a barn. The house was built around 1935 by Charles M. Upham, and the property remained in the Upham family for about 50 years until it was sold to the State in 1984. This property was once part of the General William Smallwood tobacco plantation. The bungalow is scheduled to be torn down.

Inventory No. CH-667

historic	Upham Property: Grinder's Wharf
other	Upham #1 (preferred)

street and number	Upham Road, located off of Sweden Point Road	not for publication
city, town	Rison	x vicinity
county	Charles County	

Maryland Department of Natural Resources					
street and number	580 Taylor Avenue			telephone	(410) 260-8192
city, town	Annapolis	state	Maryland	zip code	21401

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.		Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel			
city, town	La Plata		liber	968	folio	27

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ x _____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
_____ x _____ building(s)	_____ private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	_____ 2	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	_____ 1	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	_____ 3	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	_____ x _____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-667

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Upham Property is located within the vicinity of Rison, in Charles County, Maryland. The property, consisting of a frame house, shed, and ruins of a barn, is located on Upham Road off of Sweden Point Road within Smallwood State Park. This one-story bungalow, three bays wide and two bays deep, is constructed of circular sawn wood and has a concrete block foundation. The exterior is covered in white asbestos shingles although underneath this newer layer the original horizontal wood clapboard siding still remains. The two most prominent features of the exterior design are the front porch and the partially hipped roof. Roofing material is asphalt shingle. The rural landscape where this house is situated consists of an open field punctuated with cedar trees. A small wood frame shed is located directly behind the house, and a couple of hundred yards behind the shed are the remains of a burned out barn later converted into a garage.

The front (south) façade, which is architecturally the most interesting on the exterior, has a large open porch extending off of the roofline that is fully gabled. The gable is covered in the same white asphalt shingles covering the rest of the house. The foundation of the porch, like the rest of the house, is concrete block with two block steps leading up to the wood floor. Basic 2x4 and 4x4 block posts form the porch supports and the railing has a simple "x"-shaped design. There is no evidence of it ever having been screened in. Exposed wood lath on the porch ceiling is painted white. Fenestration on this elevation consists of a centered doorway with windows evenly spaced on each side of the door. Typical of mid-Twentieth century design is the paneled door with 4 small lights, and windows with 6 over 6 sashes. Many machine made nails protrude from the exterior architraves where the plastic winter window insulation was installed.

The side (east) façade is essentially unbroken except for two centered windows with 6 over 6 sashes. The gable shows the partially hipped roofline that is such a prominent feature of this house, as well as the moderately overhanging eaves, of less than one foot, that follow the inverted "U"-shaped outline of this roof design. A chimney flue is situated right on top of the pitch of this roof hip. This thin chimney is brick with a corbel on the top and was used only for a wood stove, since no fireplaces are located within the entire house. Electrical service entered from this side of the house.

The rear (north) façade has a very small wooden deck set upon concrete blocks. This provides access to a centered back door leading into an enclosed porch. The porch, offset on the façade slightly to the left, contains the small bathroom for the house. On the right of the doorway is one window with 2 over 2 sashes. The main roofline extends down on this section to form a cat slide roofline that ends in a slightly overhanging eave less than one foot in length.

The side (west) façade has four windows. From left to right, there is a 2 over 2 sash window that brightens the rear porch. There are two 6 over 6 sash windows clustered together about a foot apart. On the far right of the façade there is another 6 over 6 sash window. The roofline here mirrors the east façade, with the partially hipped roof and thin chimney. Unlike the other side however, the cat slide roof is both visible and flush to this façade.

The interior layout of the house is fairly simple in that it consists of only one floor, and lacks a cellar or accessible attic. The storage spaces are clustered and run down the center of the house, with rooms located on the ends of the house. Upon entering from the front porch (south façade) there is an entryway with a closet straight ahead. Entering the doorway on the left, there is a room with a closet and a wood stove flue. Continuing on to the next room further back into the house is the kitchen, containing metal cabinets, a wood stove flue, a pantry, closet, and an entrance door to the back porch. This back porch at the far northern end of the house includes the one bathroom in the structure, storage space, and a rear doorway to the back deck. Continuing on from the kitchen, right next to the closet is a hallway that accesses the other side of the house. After going through the hallway, with one small closet on the left, one enters what could have been a bedroom, with a closet, and a wood stove flue located in the eastern corner of this room. A doorway from this room leads towards the front of the house again. This room like all of the others has a wood stove flue, wooden floors, a closet, and two large windows. A doorway on the right leads into the entry hall again, thus completing a full circle of the house layout. Simple wood trim is located throughout and all of the wooden doors have five panels.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH 667

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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The shed at the rear of the house is wood frame and has an enclosed pen to the western side that appears to have been for animals. Wood clapboard covers the shed. There is one doorway into it and a few wooden panels that open out for ventilation. A slanting roof and an overhanging eave to the east are other design details. Sheets of asphalt paper cover the roof.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-667

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates around 1935

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Upham Property is an early Twentieth century bungalow that is located in Smallwood State Park, in Charles County, Maryland.

This house fits the characteristics of Bungalow style that were extremely popular in the early years of the Twentieth century. Characteristics that include a low, horizontal profile, and usually a height of one or one and a half stories tall, and only occasionally two stories tall. The form is square or rectangular and "Bungalow floor plans were generally open, using every available square inch" (Old House Journal, March/April 1996). Befitting of an architectural style that is based on informality, front porches are a hallmark of the design. The Upham house exhibits all of the design features of the Bungalow style.

Smallwood State Park is named after General William Smallwood, a Charles County native and prominent Marylander. He was elected one of 13 who were sent to represent Charles County during the Constitutional Conventions of 1774 and 1776. He is best known for his leadership as colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Regiment during the Revolutionary War where he fought along side George Washington, covering Washington's Retreat and staging other military successes. For his bravery during the Revolution he was elevated to the rank of General. He was elected to congress in 1785, but before he could assume those duties he was appointed Governor of Maryland to replace William Paca and served three one year terms as Governor until 1788. After serving as Governor he returned to his Charles County estate, Smallwood's Retreat, where he raised tobacco and served as President of the State Senate in 1791. In February of 1792 he died before completing his term in office.

The Smallwood Foundation in 1939 purchased the house, which was now just the ruins of the original house with only the foundation and sections of the exterior walls intact, the Smallwood gravesite, and 10 acres of the original estate. They persisted in gaining state government funds for the restoration of the house and in 1954 the restoration project began. "Upon completion of the project, the Foundation deeded the 10 acre parcel to the State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, with the understanding that additional land would be acquired for the development of a state park. Smallwood's Retreat was dedicated by Governor Theodore McKeldin and open to the public September 19, 1958". (Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form).

The Upham property, consisting of 225 acres, was purchased by the State of Maryland on February 23, 1984 as one of these proposed land acquisitions for Smallwood State Park. Originally this land had been part of Smallwood's plantation where tobacco was grown and which depended on a large amount of slave labor to tend to these crops, however "During the 1860's Charles County entered an economic depression. A large amount of previously prosperous, slave cultivated farmland remained untended due to shortages of funds and labor. A number of the larger landowners were forced to sell portions of their landholdings. Tobacco plantations were divided into smaller tracts of farmland comprised of as few as five to ten acres. By the early 1900's, many former landowners became absentee landlords. Tenant farmers assumed the responsibility for cultivating the land. These residents shared with the owner the profit from the crop and received a portion as their pay". (Thomas Brown Log Dwelling, Survey Form, Edwards and Best).

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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**Continuation Sheet**

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In February of 1935 Charles M. Upham, Jr. bought the property in fee simple from John Wesley and Mary E. Carpenter. The property remained more or less in the Upham family for 50 years, until it was sold to the State. The bungalow that is currently located on the property dates from this period when the Upham family acquired the property. They ran a tobacco farming operation on the property. "Agriculture, specifically tobacco farming, had been the lifeblood of Charles County since the time that the county was established." (Thomas Brown Log Dwelling, Survey Form, Edwards and Best).

The United States Naval Propellant Plant is located on land just to the west of the Upham property. During World War II this facility employed 1000 military personnel and civilians to research, test, and manufacture gunpowder and rocket propellants. This propellant facility, like Smallwood's Retreat, is located right on the Mattawoman Creek a tributary of the Potomac River.

Since the State acquired the property, tenants have rented the bungalow under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Rental Housing Program. Because of the deteriorated condition of the property, most significantly the presence of asbestos shingles and lead paint, the tenants have been vacated and the house scheduled to be razed.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH 667

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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### Chain of Title

**Liber 968/Folio 27.** Property transferred on February 23, 1984 to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources from Kathleen M. Upham, Carol R. Hayes and NCNB National Bank of North Carolina. Under an agreement with John E. Upham, Grantors, and the State of Maryland this property, bought in fee simple, was added by the Department of Natural Resources to Smallwood State Park.

**Liber 190/Folio 126.** The property transferred ownership, as tenants by the entireties, to Kathleen M. Upham and Charles M. Upham, Jr. from Ina Exley Upham on July 3, 1967. Ownership was divided with each owner, their heirs, and assigns having a 1/3 interest in the property.

**Liber 133/Folio 317.** The property was purchased by Charles M. Upham, Sr. and his wife, Ina E. Upham, from Geraldine A. Wallace of Washington D.C. on December 4, 1957. The property was legally a joint tenancy, so when Charles died the property became the sole responsibility of Ina.

**Liber WMA 75/Folio 74.** On August 19, 1941, Charles Melville Upham, Sr., Charles Melville Upham, Jr., and John Exley Upham obtained the property by deed from Thomas J. Flynn. This property known as Grinder's Wharf consisted of 225 acres.

**Liber WMA 75/Folio 73.** On August 19, 1941, Charles Melville Sr. and Charles Melville Jr. deeded the property to Thomas J. Flynn, unmarried at the time and from Washington D.C. This was a legal maneuver in order for the property to be reclassified as an ownership by joint tenancy. The deed was recorded on September 19, 1941.

**Liber WMA 60/ Folio 393.** On February 21, 1935 Charles M. Upham, Jr. obtained by deed the property from Mary E. Carpenter and John Wesley Carpenter (her husband), of Washington D.C. They bought the property in fee simple for the sum of \$4,000 with a mortgage for \$1,000 due to The Hughesville Savings Bank (Liber WMA 60/Folio 396). A ½ undivided interest in the property was granted to John E. Upham from Charles M. Upham, Jr. (Liber WMA 60/Folio 400).

**Liber C.P. 31/Folio 141.** Mary E. Carpenter of Washington D.C. obtained the property from Mary G. E. Grinder on January 30, 1917.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-667

1. Brugger, Robert J. Maryland, A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980. The Johns Hopkins University Press in Association with the Maryland Historical Society. Baltimore, 1988.
2. Klapthor, Margaret Brown; and Brown, Paul Dennis. History of Charles County, Maryland-Tercentenary Year 1958. Published by the Charles Co. Tercentenary, Inc. La Plata, Maryland 1958.
3. The Phase 2 Cultural Resource Evaluation of Nine Sites Within the Phase 1 Development Area, Chapman's Landing Charles County, Maryland. Survey CH-377, Thomas Brown Log Dwelling. By R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1995.
4. Old House Journal. March/April 1996. "Early Modern Houses- Bungalows, Revival Lighting, Prairie Woodwork".
5. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form, Smallwood's Retreat, CH-12. Completed by Bridget Deale in 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property less than 1/4 acre  
Acreage of historical setting 225 acres  
Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is part of Smallwood State Park in Charles County. The portion of the park that I surveyed for this property is less than 1/4 an acre. The boundary of this area includes everything from Sweden Point Road and Upham Road to the south, the dirt driveway to the house on the east, the burned out barn about 100 yards from the house on the west, and the farm field and dirt road right next to the house on the north.

## 11. Form Prepared by

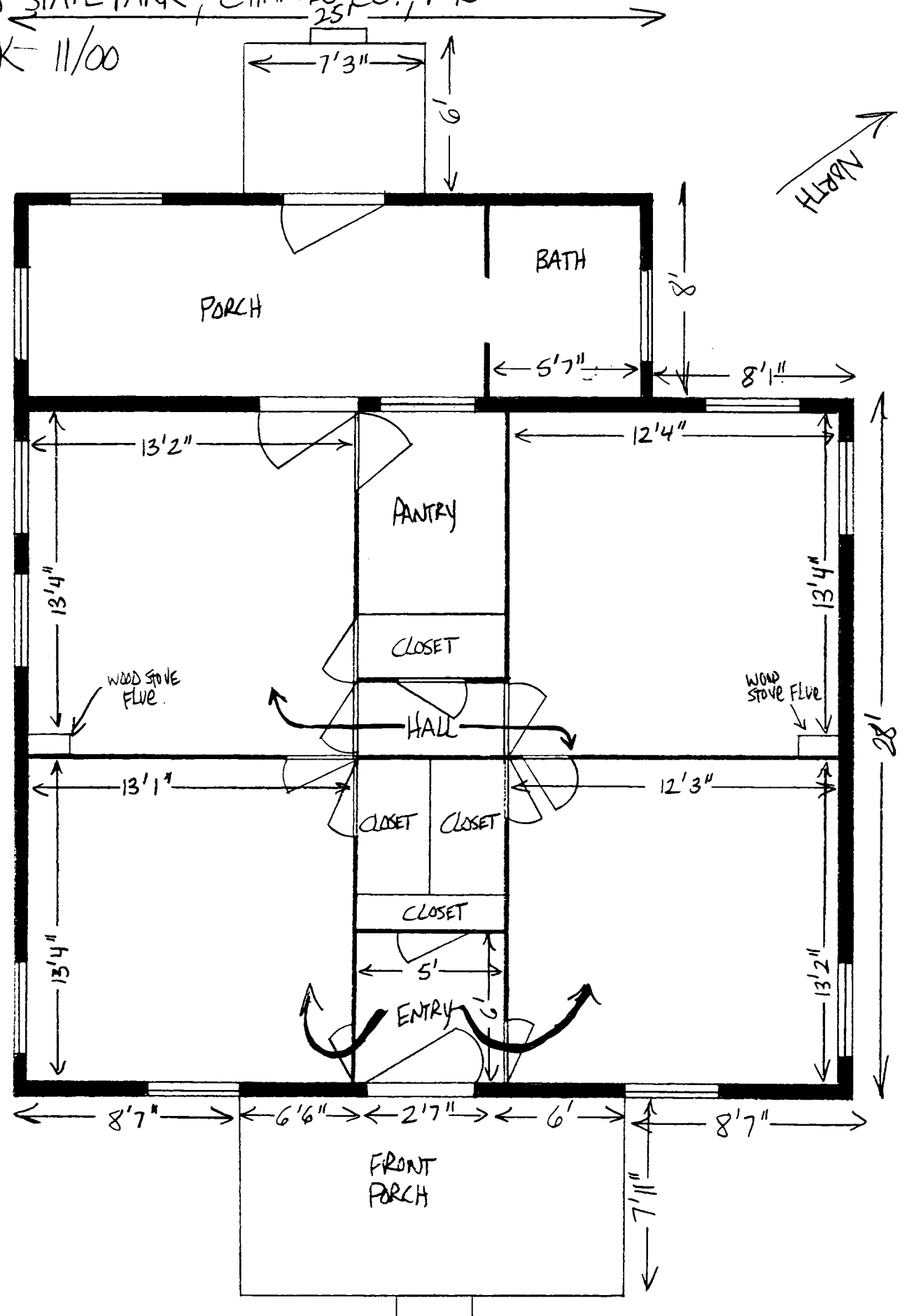
name/title	Charlie Mazurek, Park Service Associate		
organization	Maryland Department of Natural Resources	date	4/19/01
street & number	580 Taylor Avenue	telephone	(410) 260-8192
city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland

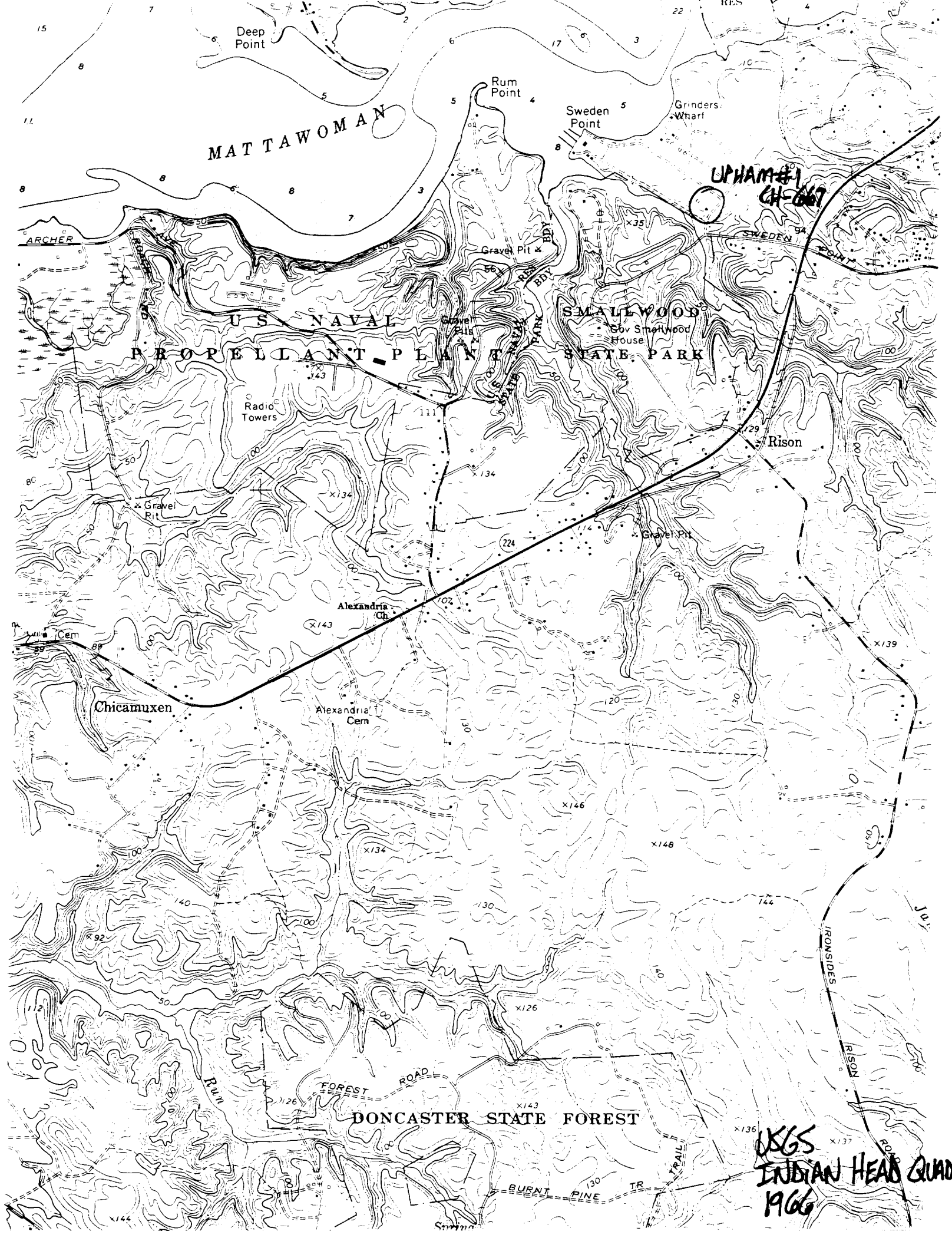
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

UPHAM PROPERTY #1 CH-667  
SMALLWOOD STATE PARK, CHARLES CO., MD  
C NAZUREK 11/00  
3/16 SCALE







CH-667

UPHAM PROPERTY #1

CHARLES CO., MD; SMALLWOOD STATE PARK

C MAZUREK

11/00

MD DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

N.E. FACADES

#1 OF 4



...-CH-667

UPHAM PROPERTY #1

CHARLES CO., MD.; SMALLWOOD STATE PARK

C. MAZUREK

11/00

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

S.W. FACADES

#2 OF 4





CH-667

UPHART PROPERTY #1

CHARLES CO., MD; SMALLWOOD STATE PARK

C. MAZUREK

11/00

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

KITCHEN

# 3 OF 4



CH-667

UPH4111 PROPERTY #1

CHARLES CO, MD, SMALLWOOD STATE PARK

C. MAZUREK

11/00

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VIEW OF EAVES FROM FRONT PORCH

#4 of 4